United Nations A/C.2/72/L.37

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
23 October 2017

Original: English

Seventy second session
Second Committee
Agenda item 19 (e)
Sustainable development: implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Ecuador:* draft resolution

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 71/229 of 21 December 2016, as well as other resolutions relating to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1]

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Recalling that, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the international community committed to combating desertification, restoring degraded

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

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land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and striving to achieve a land degradation-neutral world by 2030,

Acknowledging that action to combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and to achieve a land degradation-neutral world as set out in target 15.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals can deliver multiple benefits and that land degradation neutrality has the potential to act as an accelerator for achieving a number of Sustainable Development Goals and as a catalyst for attracting sustainable development financing and climate finance to implement the Convention,

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement[2] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[3] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Welcoming also the successful conclusion of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,

Noting that combating desertification, land degradation and drought, including through sustainable land management, can contribute to easing forced migration flows influenced by a number of factors, including economic, social, security and environmental concerns, which can, in turn, reduce current and potential fighting over resources in degraded areas,

Recognizing that drought resilience is an important element in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, as well as of target 15.3,

Acknowledging that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make an important contribution to the effective implementation of the Convention, including the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the Convention, and to the achievement of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including target 15.3,

Recognizing that sandstorms and dust storms can be exacerbated by desertification, land degradation and drought and that sustainable land management in the context of land degradation neutrality, including land management and sustainable water use, can contribute to effective responses to sandstorms and dust storms,

Welcoming the fact that 114 States have subscribed to the voluntary land degradation neutrality target setting programme,

Recognizing the value of knowledge, education, science and new technology to sustainable development and good land management, including making use of,

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[2] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

inter alia, the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, emphasizing the importance of science-based decision-making, and that science and technology to combat desertification, land degradation and drought should therefore be further promoted, and welcoming the organization of the technology fair at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Expressing its appreciation to the Government of China for hosting the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Ordos, China, from 6 to 16 September 2017,

Stressing the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations development system and that no country and no one is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 71/229 on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;[4]

2. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the adoption of the Ordos Declaration at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, urging countries to step up efforts on all fronts to tackle desertification, which is seen as one of the planet's most pressing global challenges;

4. *Recognizes* the importance of applying new and innovative technologies, as well as sharing best practices, in combating desertification, and requests the Secretary-General to identify in his report those technologies and best practices and to facilitate their sharing and transfer among countries, especially those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa;

5. *Encourages* the public and private sectors to continue to invest in developing technologies, methods and tools to combat desertification, land degradation and drought in different regions, and to boost knowledge exchange, including of traditional knowledge with the consent of the knowledge holders, capacity-building and sharing of technologies;

6. *Encourages* developed countries party to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1] to actively support the efforts of developing countries party to the Convention in promoting sustainable land management practices and in seeking to combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world by providing substantial financial resources, facilitated access to appropriate technology and other forms of support, including through capacity-building measures;

7. *Welcomes* the adoption of the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the Convention, including a new strategic objective on drought, and strongly encourages the parties to the Convention to apply and align with the Strategic Framework in their national policies, programmes, plans and processes relating to

[4] A/72/152, sect. II.

desertification, land degradation and drought, including in their national action programmes, as appropriate;

8. *Invites* multilateral and bilateral partners to support parties to the Convention in the implementation of the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the Convention;

9. *Commits* to promoting the prevention of desertification and further degradation with an integrated landscape approach, including the rehabilitation and restoration of degraded land and sustainable land management;

10. *Calls upon* States to prepare drought preparedness policies with a focus on early warning systems, vulnerability and risk assessment, as well as drought risk mitigation measures;

11. *Calls for* more investments aimed at the operationalization of the voluntary land degradation neutrality target setting programme and the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund as an innovative funding scheme to finance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[5] in particular target 15.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals;

12. *Welcomes* target 15.3, takes note with appreciation of the voluntary land degradation neutrality target setting programme and the work done by the secretariat of the Convention and the partners to assist States in carrying out voluntary target setting activities, and in this respect invites States that have not yet subscribed to the programme to do so;

13. *Recognizes* the benefits gained from cooperation through the sharing of climate and weather information, forecasting and early warning systems related to desertification, land degradation and drought, while also taking account of dust storms and sandstorms, at the global, regional and subregional levels, and in this regard likewise recognizes the need for further cooperation between States and relevant organizations in the sharing of related information, forecasting and early warning systems;

14. *Invites* donors to the Global Environment Facility to give due consideration and to increase funds allocated to the land degradation focal area during the seventh replenishment process for the Facility;

15. *Encourages* the United Nations system to harness opportunities for leveraging synergies among the Convention on Biological Diversity,[6] the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[3] (the Rio Conventions) and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this respect welcomes ongoing discussion among the secretariats of the Rio Conventions on establishing a joint project preparation facility to facilitate access by developing country parties to financial resources;

16. *Reaffirms* the continuation of the current institutional linkage and related administrative arrangements between the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the United Nations Secretariat for a further five-year period, to be reviewed by both the General Assembly and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention no later than

[5] Resolution 70/1.

[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

31 December 2023, as decided by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth session;

17. *Decides* to include, in the United Nations calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2018–2019, the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for the biennium, and requests the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019;

18. *Urges* the United Nations to intensify support for States in fully implementing the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito in 2016,[7] which envisages cities and human settlements that protect, conserve, restore and promote their ecosystems, water, natural habitats and biodiversity, minimize their environmental impact and change to sustainable consumption and production patterns;

19. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no country and no one is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa".

[7] Resolution 71/256, annex.